Flouting of Environmental norms by Industrial Units

2280. SHRI GHUFRANAZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the State Pollution Control Boards to take punitive action against industrial units flouting environmental norms and effectively enforce pollution control measures;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether several State Governments are not following the directives of the Government and failed to take any effective measures; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to take action against the defaulting units particularly those falling under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries. In addition, the State Boards have also been asked to take action in pursuance of the guidelines and rules regarding hazardous waste generating industries. Consequent to such directions, out of 1551 units falling in the 17 categories of highly polluting industries, 1259 units have installed pollution control systems. In certain cases, the Central Government on its own has taken action against the defaulting units as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act.

Corruption in SFC

2281. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the top officials of State Farms Corporation (SFC) have reported a wood scandal involving top officials of SFC for selling wood worth crores of rupees at throwaway price of Rs. 70 per quintal against market price of Rs. 700 per quintal;

(b) whether several written reports have been sent to Prime Minister's Office in this regard to get the scandal investigated;

(c) whether Government propose to get the working of SFC investigated through C.B.I.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no wood scandal in the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). Only surplus wood of dried and fallen trees is sold after internal use by SFCI. This wood is sold as firewood at a mutually agreed price through open auction at unit level. Total sale does not exceed Rs. 12/-lakhs (approx.) per annum. No Written reports have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office in this regard. There is no proposal to get the working of SFCI investigated through C.B.I.

(d) In view of the position explained above, question does not arise.

Proposal for Prohibition of Handling of Azo dyes

2282. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dye-stuff Industry has demanded review of Government's proposal prohibiting the handling of Azo dyes which are detrimental to health;

(b) the details of Azo dyes which cause cancer; and

(c) the details of the action proposed to be taken on the demands of the Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to prohibit handling of certain Azo dyes which are detrimental to health is under consideration of the Government of India. A draft notification dated 29th March, 1996 inviting objections from the public against the imposition of the proposed prohibition have been issued in accordance with Rule 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.